

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10-14, 18, 19, 22 and 25-30 as follows.

1. (Original) A method of making a curable rubber compound in which particulate cured rubber (crumb rubber) is mixed with curable base rubber and a corresponding curing system, characterized by inclusion of a curable base rubber low-viscosity component sufficient to wet the crumb rubber whereby a curable compound which can be roll-processed is formed.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 in which to wet the crumb rubber a liquid curable rubber is combined with a non-liquid curable base rubber.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ in which the non liquid curable base rubber has a Mooney viscosity (ML1+4 @ 100°C) of from 30 to 80.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the crumb rubber particles are all less than 0.5 mm in size.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 in which the crumb rubber particles are all less than 0.25 mm in size.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the crumb rubber particles constitute at least 20% of the curable rubber compound.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 in which the crumb rubber particles constitute at least 30% of the curable rubber compound.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the curable rubber compound contains not more than 15 wt% inert filler.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 in which the curable rubber compound contains not more than 5 wt% inert filler.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the crumb rubber is recycled rubber.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~or any claim dependent thereon~~, in which the liquid rubber and crumb rubber are separate from one another at least immediately before their respective addition to the mix.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~or any claim dependent thereon~~, in which the amount of liquid curable rubber used is at least 5 phr.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 including forming the curable rubber compound into a coherent self-sustaining web between rollers.

14. (Currently Amended) A curable rubber compound, processable or processed by one or more methods selected from roll-processing, extrusion and flow moulding, obtainable by a method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 14 in sheet form.

16. (Original) A method of making an article comprising curing a compound according to claim 14.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 in which the compound is cured with heating in a compression mould.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 15, ~~16 or 17~~ comprising as a preliminary stage the preparation of the curable rubber compound by a method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16 in which the article is in layer form.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19 in which the article comprises a layer of the rubber compound and a superimposed layer of fabric.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20 in which the fabric is tufted.

22. (Currently Amended) An article ~~consisting of or~~ comprising crumb rubber-filled cured rubber, obtainable by a method according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 21~~ claim 16.

23. (Original) A mat or flooring material comprising a textile layer bonded to a rubber backing layer, the rubber backing layer comprising a uniform dispersion of cured rubber particles in a matrix of a cured second rubber, the cured rubber particles constituting at least 20 wt% of the rubber backing layer.

24. (Original) A mat or flooring material according to claim 23 in which the textile layer is tufted.

25. (Currently Amended) A mat or flooring material according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~ in which the cured rubber particles have less than 0.25 mm particle size.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Mat~~ A mat or flooring material according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23 in which the cured rubber particles are recycled rubber.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Mat~~ A mat or flooring material according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 26~~ claim 23 in which the cured rubber particles and the matrix rubber include rubbers of the same type, selected from NBR, SBR and NR.

28. (Currently Amended) A mat or flooring material according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 27~~ claim 23 in which the rubber backing layer is from 1 to 20 mm thick.

29. (Currently Amended) A mat or flooring material according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 28~~ claim 23 in which the density of the rubber backing layer is not more than 1.2 g/cm³.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of making a mat or flooring material according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 29~~ claim 23 in which a roll processed layer of uncured rubber compound, comprising a coherent web comprising the cured rubber particles dispersed in the uncured second rubber, is joined to the textile layer under heat and compression in a mould to cure the second rubber.